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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,923	09/15/2003	Peter M. Bonutti	2500DV2CN2DV3CN2	2728
7590	03/14/2006		EXAMINER	
Patent Counsel U.S. Surgical, A Division of TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP 150 Glover Avenue Norwalk, CO 06856				THALER, MICHAEL H
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3731	
DATE MAILED: 03/14/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application Number 	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination
	10/662,923	BONUTTI, PETER M.
	M. Thaler	Art Unit 3731

Document Code - AP.PRE.DEC



Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review

This is in response to the Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review filed 2/6/06.

1. **Improper Request** – The Request is improper and a conference will not be held for the following reason(s):

- The Notice of Appeal has not been filed concurrent with the Pre-Appeal Brief Request.
- The request does not include reasons why a review is appropriate.
- A proposed amendment is included with the Pre-Appeal Brief request.
- Other: _____

The time period for filing a response continues to run from the receipt date of the Notice of Appeal or from the mail date of the last Office communication, if no Notice of Appeal has been received.

2. **Proceed to Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences** – A Pre-Appeal Brief conference has been held. The application remains under appeal because there is at least one actual issue for appeal. Applicant is required to submit an appeal brief in accordance with 37 CFR 41.37. The time period for filing an appeal brief will be reset to be one month from mailing this decision, or the balance of the two-month time period running from the receipt of the notice of appeal, whichever is greater. Further, the time period for filing of the appeal brief is extendible under 37 CFR 1.136 based upon the mail date of this decision or the receipt date of the notice of appeal, as applicable.

The panel has determined the status of the claim(s) is as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

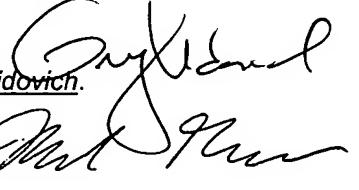
Claim(s) rejected: 2-5, 7-9, 11-13.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

3. **Allowable application** – A conference has been held. The rejection is withdrawn and a Notice of Allowance will be mailed. Prosecution on the merits remains closed. No further action is required by applicant at this time.

4. **Reopen Prosecution** – A conference has been held. The rejection is withdrawn and a new Office action will be mailed. No further action is required by applicant at this time.

All participants:

(1) Gregory M. Vidovich 

(3) A. Nguyen 

(2) M. Thaler 

(4) _____